GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3132
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON COCONUT
GEORGE EDEN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has made any representation for inclusion ofcomponent for cut and removal of disease advanced Palms in Technology mission on Coconut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Government of Kerala submitted a Memorandum in which it was sought to includeunder Technology Mission on Coconut, a component for cutting and removal of root wilt disease advanced 80 lakh coconut palms with financial assistance of Rs.200 crores over a period of 5 years. In addition, cutting and removal of 40 lakh senile coconut palms was also proposed besides production of 120 lakh seedlings.

(c): The approved scheme of Technology Mission on Coconut has focus on technologydevelopment, demonstration and adoption in the field of insect/pest and disease management; processing and product diversification; and market research and promotion, having synergy and integration of programmes. The Mission propose to bridge the gaps through appropriate new programmes and to ensure adequate, appropriate, timely and concurrent attention to all links in production, processing and product diversification etc. Under the Technology Mission on Coconut only specific projects for development, demonstration and adoption of technologies, other than routine programmes, are considered and approved by the Project Approval Committee of the Coconut Development Board.

The Coconut Development Board, under the project integrated farming in coconutholdings for productivity improvement, has so far provided Rs.53.27 crores since 1987-88 to Government of Kerala mostly for cutting and removal of diseased coconut palms. This has helped in decreasing the intensity of the rootwilt disease from 32.4 to 24.0 percent. The problem of such a magnitude cannot be tackled only through the efforts of the Government by providing compensation. Community movement seems to be essential to eradicate root wilt disease affected coconut palms and mildly affected palms have to be managed with scientific management practices to obtain high yields. This will require a strong extension system at the State level. The State Government has been informed accordingly.